

REMARKS**The Examiner's Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103**
Rejection over Shultz

The claims have been amended to clarify that the cuff comprises a nonwoven consisting essentially of spunbonded metallocene polypropylene. As Shultz requires that the fabric produced be "a laminate having at least one layer of **meltblown elastic** fibers bonded on either side with a layer of soft non-elastic fibers...", this amendment should remove Schultz as a reference against the instant application. This is due to the fact that, even if the Shultz metallocene polymers were spunbond they would still be a part of a three layer laminate containing amounts of meltblown material which "materially affect the basic and novel characteristic(s) of the claimed invention" (MPEP 2111.03). There is no motivation provided by Shultz to produce a cuff comprising a nonwoven consisting essentially of spunbond material as is required by the instant claims.

CONCLUSION

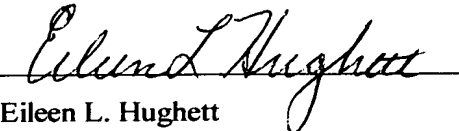
In light of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references and reference combinations do not disclose or render obvious claims 1-3 and 5-20.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of claims 1-3 and 5-20 is earnestly solicited in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Should any issues impeding continuing examination of this Application remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at the earliest possible date to achieve a timely resolution.

Respectfully submitted

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. An absorbent article to be worn by a wearer adjacent the skin, the absorbent article comprising:

a chassis comprising:

an outer covering layer comprising:

a backsheet; and

a liquid pervious topsheet joined to said backsheet; and

an absorbent core positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet;

a cuff joined to said chassis, each said [nonwoven] cuff having a first surface and a second surface disposed opposite said first surface, said [nonwoven] cuff comprising a nonwoven consisting essentially of metallocene propylene spunbond fibers having a denier less than about 1.3 and wherein said nonwoven has a hydrostatic head of at least about 85 mm.
2. The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein said nonwoven [cuff comprises] consists of spunbond fibers[in the absence of meltblown fibers].
3. The absorbent article of Claim 2 wherein said nonwoven [cuff] has a basis weight of less than about 17 gsm.
5. The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein said nonwoven [cuff] comprises less than about 10 % by weight meltblown fibers and said nonwoven has a hydrohead of at least about 85 mm.
6. The absorbent article of Claim 5 wherein said nonwoven [cuff] comprises less than about 8 % by weight meltblown fibers.
7. The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein said [nonwoven] cuff further comprises an effective amount of a skin care composition disposed on said nonwoven [cuff], said skin care composition being semi-solid or solid at 20°C and at least partially transferable to a wearer's skin.

8. The absorbent article of Claim 7 wherein the quantity of said skin care composition on said nonwoven [cuff] ranges from about 0.05 mg/in² to about 80 mg/in².
9. The absorbent article of Claim 7 wherein said skin care composition comprises:
- (i) from about 10% to about 95% of an emollient having a plastic or fluid consistency at 20°C; and
 - (ii) from about 5% to about 90% of an agent capable of immobilizing said emollient on said nonwoven [cuff].
19. An absorbent article to be worn by a wearer adjacent the skin, the absorbent article comprising:
a chassis having edges, said chassis comprising:
 an outer covering layer; and
 an absorbent core encased in said outer covering layer;
a barrier cuff joined to said chassis, said barrier cuff comprising a separate barrier cuff member having a proximal edge and a distal edge in spaced relation to said proximal edge, said proximal edge being joined to said outer covering layer, a portion of said distal edge not being secured to the absorbent article, and a spacing elastic element operatively associated with said distal edge for allowing said barrier cuff member [element] to stand upwardly away from said outer covering layer, said barrier cuff member comprising a nonwoven consisting essentially of metallocene polypropylene spunbond fibers having a denier less than about 1.3 and wherein said nonwoven has a hydrostatic head of at least about 85 mm.
20. An absorbent article to be worn by a wearer adjacent the skin, the absorbent article comprising:
a chassis having edges, said chassis comprising:
 an outer covering layer; and
 an absorbent core encased in said outer covering layer;
a barrier cuff joined to said chassis, said barrier cuff comprising a separate barrier cuff member having a proximal edge and a distal edge in spaced relation to said proximal edge, said proximal edge being joined to said outer covering layer, a portion of said distal edge not being secured to the absorbent article, and a spacing elastic element operatively associated with said distal edge for allowing said barrier cuff member [element] to stand upwardly away from said outer covering layer, said barrier cuff comprising a nonwoven consisting essentially of metallocene polypropylene spunbond fibers having a denier less than about 1.3 and wherein said nonwoven has a hydrostatic head of at least about 85 mm; and

an effective amount of a skin care composition disposed on said barrier cuff member, said skin care composition being semi-solid or solid at 20°C and at least partially transferable to a wearer's skin.